

Serial No. 09/990,199

Art Unit 2833

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 10 were presented for consideration in the present application. The instant amendment cancels claims 1, 3, and 6 without prejudice. Thus, claims 2, 4 through 5, and 7 through 10 remain pending in the present application.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 4, and 7. Claims 2, 4, and 7 have been amended. Specifically, claim 2 now includes the elements of claim 1. Claim 4 now includes the elements of claim 3. Claim 7 now includes the elements of claim 6.

It is respectfully submitted that these amendments merely make explicit what had been implicit in the claims.

Claim 5 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 4. Claims 8 through 10 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 7.

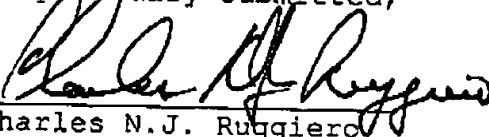
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is most earnestly solicited.

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If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, he is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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